

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): A transgenic plant ~~comprising~~ that is more tolerant to a water deprivation treatment than a control plant, wherein the transgenic plant comprises a recombinant polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide;

wherein the polypeptide has the property of regulating ~~abiotic stress~~ water deprivation tolerance in a plant when the polypeptide is overexpressed[[,]] ; and

wherein the recombinant polynucleotide comprises a ~~nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:~~

(a) ~~SEQ ID NO: 2N-1, where N=1-210;~~

(b) ~~a recombinant~~ nucleic acid sequence that specifically hybridizes to the nucleotide complement of the sequence or the complement of the nucleotide sequence of (a) set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3 under stringent conditions that include comprising two wash steps of 6x SSC and 65° C, for 10-30 minutes per step; and

(c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence that is substantially identical to the nucleotide sequence of (a).~~

Claims 14-34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 13, wherein the stringent conditions comprise two wash steps with 1x SSC, 1% SDS at 60° C for 45-60 minutes.

Claim 36 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 13, wherein the stringent conditions comprise two wash steps with 0.2x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65° C for 30 minutes per step.

Claim 37 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 13, wherein the water deprivation treatment is drought.

Claim 38 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 13, wherein the water deprivation treatment is salt.

Claim 39 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 38, wherein the water deprivation treatment is 150 mM salt.

Claim 40 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 13, wherein the water deprivation treatment is sucrose.

Claim 41 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 40, wherein the water deprivation treatment is 9.4% sucrose.

Claim 42 (new): The transgenic plant of Claim 13, wherein expression of the polypeptide is regulated by a constitutive, inducible, or tissue-specific promoter.

Claim 43 (new): The transgenic plant of Claim 13, wherein the transgenic plant is a transformed seed.

Claim 44 (new): A transgenic plant that is more tolerant to a water deprivation treatment than a control plant, wherein the transgenic plant comprises a recombinant polynucleotide that encodes SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 45 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 44, wherein the water deprivation treatment is drought.

Claim 46 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 44, wherein the water deprivation treatment is salt.

Claim 47 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 46, wherein the water deprivation treatment is 150 mM salt.

Claim 48 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 44, wherein the water deprivation treatment is sucrose.

Claim 49 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 48, wherein the water deprivation treatment is 9.4% sucrose.

Claim 50 (new): The transgenic plant of Claim 44, wherein expression of the polypeptide is regulated by a constitutive, inducible, or tissue-specific promoter.

Claim 51 (new): The transgenic plant of Claim 44, wherein the transgenic plant is a transformed seed.